

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Modena Fire District has been awarded a \$79,468 federal grant to purchase new firefighting equipment, including new turnout gear and a commercial grade machine to wash the new equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds provide much-needed safety equipment for the dedicated firefighters in the Modena Fire District," Hinchey said. "The new turnout gear will ensure that these brave men and women are protected as they fight fires, and will enable them to continue to perform their important duties for the town of Plattekill. Additionally, this federal grant spares local taxpayers the cost of this much-needed equipment."

The funds allocated to the Modena Fire District will be used to purchase new turnout gear to protect the firefighters, which includes flame retardant boots, trousers, and jackets. These funds will also be used to purchase a commercial grade machine to wash the new turnout gear, which will help to extend the life of this new equipment.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, nearly \$17.9 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district

Hinchey is the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.